provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983.

(c) In order to tackle the problems of NPAs, Financial Institutions have formulated long term and short term plans which *inter-alia* include close monitoring of NPAs, regular review with borrower, discussions, periodical visits to units, financial restructuring one time settlement of dues, working out rehabilitation packages for potentially viable units, cautious approach in lending, resorting to take-over/merger of sick units/problem units by stronger companies and asking nominee directors to persue the matters at board level. If the defaultes are still not cleared legal procedures are initiated.

Financial position of Orissa Government

159. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the financial position of the Government of Orissa is under severe strain as per the white paper released recently; and

(b) if so, what are the details of fiscal corrective measures suggested to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government of Orissa have prepared a programme for fiscal reform which is aimed at reducing revenue and fiscal deficits through additional resource mobilisation, reduction in non-plan expenditure, pricing/subsidy corrections, etc.

Amounts accumulated in abandoned Policies of LIC

160. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how much amount has been accumulated with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) so far on account of the abandoning of the policies by the policy holders;

(b) the purpose for which that money is being used; and

(c) the reasons for the money not being returned to the policy holders who abandoned their policies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) A policy holder is entitled to get the paid up value of the policy if the policy lapses after three years. The policy holders sometimes do not collect the amount due to them for one reason or the other. In such cases efforts are made by LIC to reach the policy holder through letters and personal efforts. Inspite of this if no response is received from the policyholder or his whereabouts are not known, the amount is transferred to the 'Written Back Account' so that as and when the policy holder approaches the LIC, the amount could be paid to the policyholder. If the LIC is unable to reach the policyholder even after 5 years, the amount in the Written Back Account is credited to the Life Fund and the benefit is given to the other policyholders until the amount is claimed by the policyholder. The Amount due to policyholders will not get time-barred simply because it is not claimed by them in time. The net amount in the 'Written Back Account' transferred to the Life Fund during the last 5 years, after unclaimed payments are made to the policyholders, is Rs. 75.88 crore.

Fraud cases involving exporters

161. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of fraud that have come to the notice of Government in which the exporters have claimed concessions that were not admissible to them during the last three years, year-wise alongwith the details thereof;

(b) whether any custom officials have also been involved in those cases of frauds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken against those officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): The number of cases of fraud that have come to the notice of Government in which the exporters have claimed concessions that were not admissible to them during the last three years, year-wise (1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000—upto October, 1999) are indicated in the enclosed statement (See below).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. 12 customs officials were suspected to be